

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 9 remain in this application. Claims 1 – 9 have been amended.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because of the designations made by reference characters “33.3,” “34.1,” “19,” “14.2,” and “17.3.” Clarification was required.

To overcome these objections, the specification has been amended in the following manner. Reference character “33.3” now only refers to bushings; links are referred to as reference character “33.2” instead of “33.3.” Reference character “34.1” refers to middle rollers and a smaller middle roller of the set of middle rollers. Reference character “19” now only refers to the motor; the suspension joint is referred to as reference character “18.” Figure 3 of the drawings has been amended such that the suspension joint is shown as reference character “18” instead of reference character “19.” Reference character “14.2” now refers to frame side plates and reference character “17.3” refers to crawler side plates.

The drawings were also objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters “14.1,” “17.1,” “20,” “21,” and “33.4” that are not mentioned in the specification.

To overcome these objections, the drawings and the specification have been amended in the following manner. Reference character “14.1” has been removed from Figures 2 and 4. Reference character “17.1” has been added to the specification; reference character “17.1” refers to outer rows of the crawler track. Reference characters “20” and “21” have been removed from Figure 3. Reference character “33.4” has been removed from Figure 4.

The specification was objected to for not containing a cross-reference to related applications. The disclosure was also objected to under 37 CFR 1.71(b) because it is not clear on page 6, lines 21 – 29 what element includes a carbonized layer. The disclosure was further objected to for certain informalities.

The overcome these objections, the specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to related applications section. It is noted that this application is a national phase filing of International Application No. PCT/FI2003/000680 filed September 18, 2003. The specification has also been amended to add the sentence "roll guides 22.1 and 22.2 may include a carbon tempered wear surface for engaging tracks 14 and 17 respectively" to the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21 in order to clarify which structure may be hardened by carbon tempering. Support for this recitation is found in claim 7. The specification was further amended on page 6, lines 17, 21, and 25 to replace commas with decimal points where necessary.

Claims 1 - 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Office Action stated that neither the specification nor the drawings provide support for a feeder device comprising roller guides and a middle-rolling base; it is unclear how these elements interrelate. Further, the Office Action stated that the specification fails to provide adequate support for the recitation "the rolling guides form a unified wear piece" in claim 6.

Claim 1 has been amended to replace "rolling base" with --roll guide-- so that the feeder is consistently recited as having roll guides including outer roll guides 22.1 and a middle roll guide 22.2. Claim 6 has been amended to read --the roll guides form a uniform roll base--. Support for this recitation may be found on page 6, lines 9 - 12 of the specification. Claim 7 has also been amended to read --a wear surface of the roll base-- to be consistent with claim 6 from which it depends.

Claims 1 - 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to specifically point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, certain language in claims 1 and 5 was found to be unclear and certain limitations in claims 1 - 4 and 8 were found to lack antecedent basis.

Claim 1 has been amended such that "on the adhesion side" now reads --a gripping side of the feeder device-- to clarify that the adhesion side is a gripping side of the feeder

device. “Adhesion” has been changed to “gripping.” The word “gripping” is used in the specification (see for example page 3, line 20) and more clearly conveys the meaning intended by the word “adhesion.” Claim 1 has also been amended such that the recitation “in which the drive sprocket is arranged to drive by its teeth the middle row of links of the roller chain through its rollers” now reads --in which the drive sprocket has sprocket teeth arranged to drive the middle row of links of the roller chain through the rollers of the middle row of links--. Furthermore, the phrase “in which case” has been replaced with --and--.

Claim 5 has been amended to delete the phrase “seen from the side” such that the claim now reads in part --characterized in that the outer roll guides extend essentially to the area of the drive sprocket--.

To correct the lack of antecedent basis of certain limitations in claims 1 – 4 and 8, claim 1 has been amended such that “the adhesion side” now reads --a gripping side--. Claim 1 has also been amended such that “the rolling base” now reads --the roll guide-- and “the outer rolling bases” now reads --the outer roll guides--. Claims 2 – 4 have been amended such that “the outer rollers” now reads --the rollers of the outer rows--. Claim 8 has been amended to add the recitation --the crawler track has side plates-- to provide antecedent basis for “the side plates of the crawler track.” Support for the crawler track side plates is found in the specification on page 5, lines 23 and 34 – 35 and reference character “17.3” of the drawings.

The specification, abstract, and the claims have also been globally amended to change “rolling base” and “rolling guide” to --roll base-- and --roll guide--. The term “roll” is more appropriate than the term “rolling” as the bases are guides for the rollers but are not themselves in motion (i.e., they are not rolling).

The abstract has also been amended to be consistent with amendments made to the claims.

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This amendment is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

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In the Drawings

Please amend Figures 2 through 4 in accordance with replacement sheets 2/3 and 3/3 of the drawings attached hereto.